The Papaya Gang
by Aoki Mitsue
Volume 1
Chapter 6
I was worked on by Lililicious and HotCakes!
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http://www.lililicious.net
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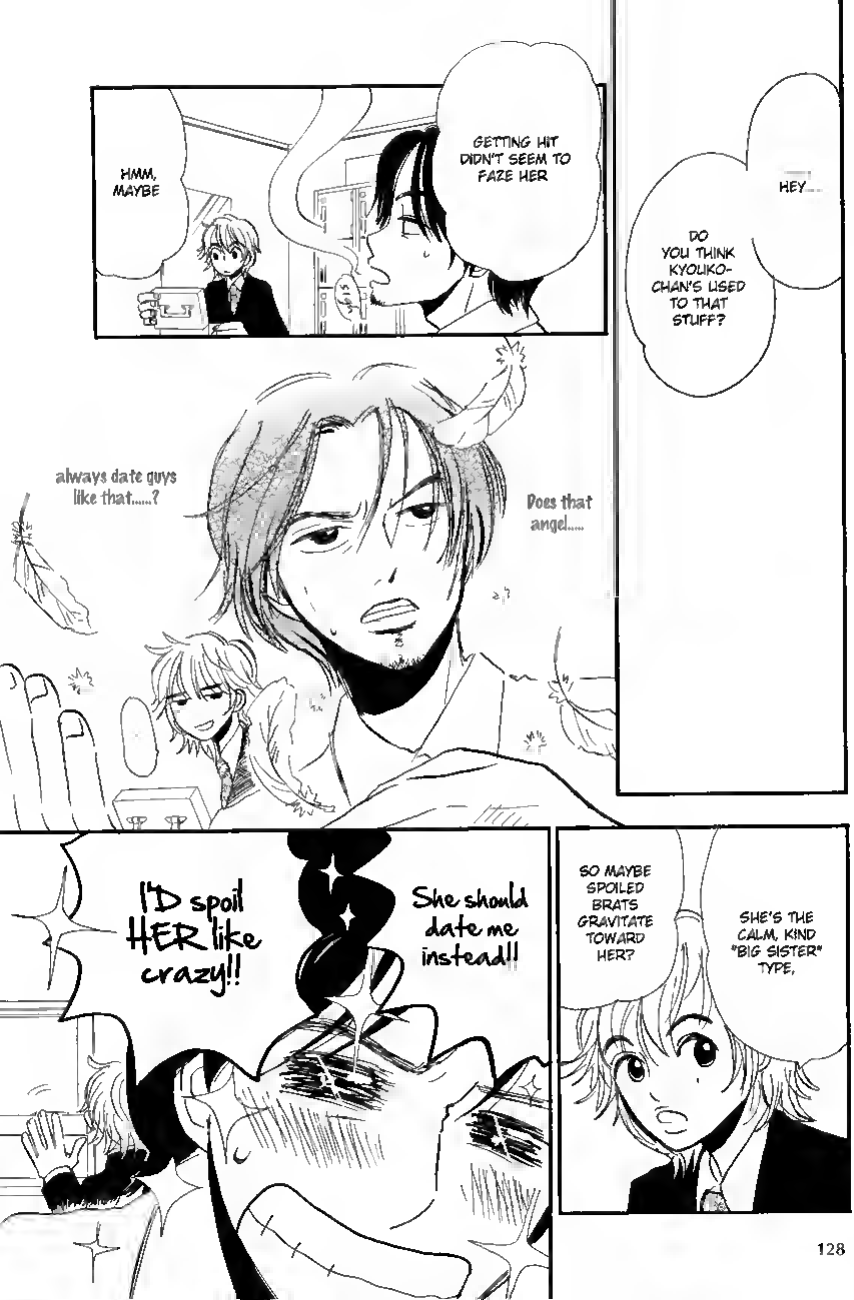
Wh-
which means more to you? Me or your doujinshi?!
CLASH
パパイヤ軍団☆
Scene 6

Even my dad's never done that!!
He... He hit me!!
I managed to tell him that,
"You, of course."
but I couldn't say

Scene
6
The Boss and Tatsu-kichi-tsan 2
Daiichi Printing
Daiichi Printing
Daiichi Printing
Daiichi Printing

What happened to your face?!
Kabuki District Street 1
IT'S SWELLED UP, HASN'T IT?
OH,
MY BOYFRIEND AND I BROKE UP...
I DIDN'T THINK HE WAS THE TYPE TO RAISE A HAND TO ME, THOUGH
WHAT HAPPENED?!
MINAMI!! GET ME SOME ICE AND A TOWEL!!
YES, IT'S ALL SWOLLEN!!

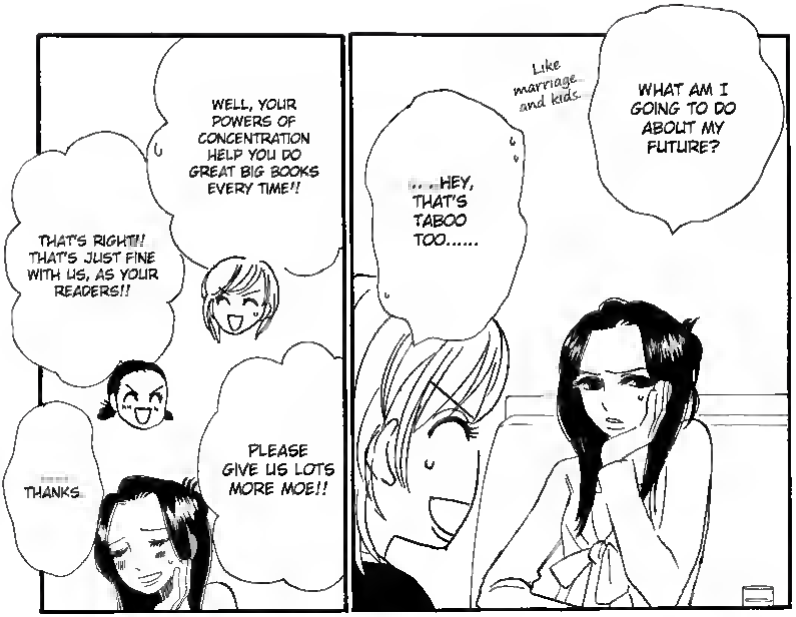
WHAT?!
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO WORK TODAY
Sick Leave
OH, DEAR!
BUT... THERE'S A CUSTOMER I PROMISED TO SEE TODAY!!
This is bad!! I need to work a lot of hours this month.
THIS IS TERRIBLE!!
The side of your lip is split, too!!
WELL, HE DUMPED ME ANYWAY, SO IT ALL WORKED OUT IN THE END.
YES I'M SORRY
YOU HAVE TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR FACE IN THIS BUSINESS.
So I can afford to print my new book!!
YOU CAN'T SEE HIM, NOT WITH YOUR FACE LIKE THAT.
YEAH. IT'S REALLY OBVIOUS
GO CALL HIM AND APOLOGIZE.
Say you caught a cold or something


HEY...
DO YOU THINK KYOUKO-CHAN'S USED TO THAT STUFF?
GETTING HIT DIDN'T SEEM TO FAZE HER
HMM, MAYBE
Does that angel.....
always date guys like that.....?
SHE'S THE CALM, KIND "BIG SISTER" TYPE,
SO MAYBE SPOILED BRATS GRAVITATE TOWARD HER?
She should date me instead!!
I'D spoil HER like crazy!!

Tatsukichi = Kyouko's pen-name
HEY, TA-TSAN...
I SHOULD JUST BLOCK HIM.
NOT ANOTHER ONE!!
I've thought about it a lot, and I still love you. I want to get back together. Would you take my calls?
--END--
Reply
OK
Menu
THREE. WHY?!
HOW MANY TIMES NOW HAS A GUY ASKED YOU IF DOUJINSHI IS MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU THAN HE IS?
Fhehe
IT'S NOT THAT I HAVE BAD LUCK WITH GUYS. IT'S ALL ON ME!!
I GET IT, OKAY?!!
SIGH...

MY BOYFRIEND, MY DAILY LIFE... I PUT ALL OF THAT ON HOLD.
WHEN I'M REALLY FOCUSED ON A MANUSCRIPT, I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING ELSE.
tappa tap..
tappa tappa...
I...
I'LL NEVER FORGET WHAT HAPPENED TWO WINTERS AGO.
THAT CONFLICTS WITH DATES.
AND DOUJINSHI EVENTS ARE ON SUNDAYS, Y'KNOW?
I WAS KEEPING MY DOUJINSHI A SECRET FROM HIM. HE THOUGHT I WAS CHEATING ON HIM, SO HE FOLLOWED ME
MY GOODNESS
GURK!
KYOUKO
WHAT'S he doing here?!
.....?!
That's.
Your boyfriend at the time was waiting outside the event building on a snowy day...

I'VE COME OUT TO MY BOYFRIENDS ABOUT IT EVER SINCE,
Why stay up all night? Can't you work on it gradually during the day?
Well certainly but
BUT THEY JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IT'S LIKE WHEN THINGS GET DOWN TO THE WIRE.
TO BE HONEST
REAL-LIFE GUYS ARE A PAIN IN THE BUTT.....
SIGH...
Don't say that!! It's taboo!!
BUT I REALLY DO THINK
THAT I COME FIRST FOR ME DOES THAT MEAN I'M LACKING AS A HUMAN BEING?


WELL, YOUR POWERS OF CONCENTRATION HELP YOU DO GREAT BIG BOOKS EVERY TIME!!
THAT'S RIGHT!! THAT'S JUST FINE WITH US, AS YOUR READERS!!
PLEASE GIVE US LOTS MORE MOE!!
THANKS.
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO ABOUT MY FUTURE?
Like marriage and kids.
...HEY, THAT'S TABOO TOO.....

I'm gonna work hard to earn enough cash to print them!!

MORNING HOW'S YOUR FACE?
IT'S FINE THE EDGE OF MY MOUTH IS STILL A BIT RED, BUT ASIDE FROM THAT, IT'S ALL BETTER NOW.
LET ME SEE.
IT WAS LIGHT ENOUGH THAT I COULD COVER IT ALL WITH CONCEALER.
SEE?
dizzy
BA-DUMP

T/N: In the original the boss hears "shinka" (from "shinkan" or "new books") and Kyouka says she meant to say "shinkyu" (in this case, money sent home to her parents)

I need some serious bank! To send home to my parents!!
THAT DOESN'T EVEN SOUND LIKE "BOOKS"
OH!!
I SEE...
So, she's sending money home...
IF THINGS GET TOUGH, FEEL FREE TO COME TO ME FOR ADVICE ANYTIME.

I'm glad this turned out to be such a good place to work...
♡
KYOUKO-SAN, SOMEONE'S ASKING FOR YOU
And I get Sundays off!!
I'M TERRIBLE BUT I WONDER IF HE'LL GIVE ME AN ADVANCE ON MY PAY?!
I WILL. THANK YOU!
♡
WHAT?! HER EX?!
LOOKS LIKE IT
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
I'M HERE AS A CUSTOMER.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?

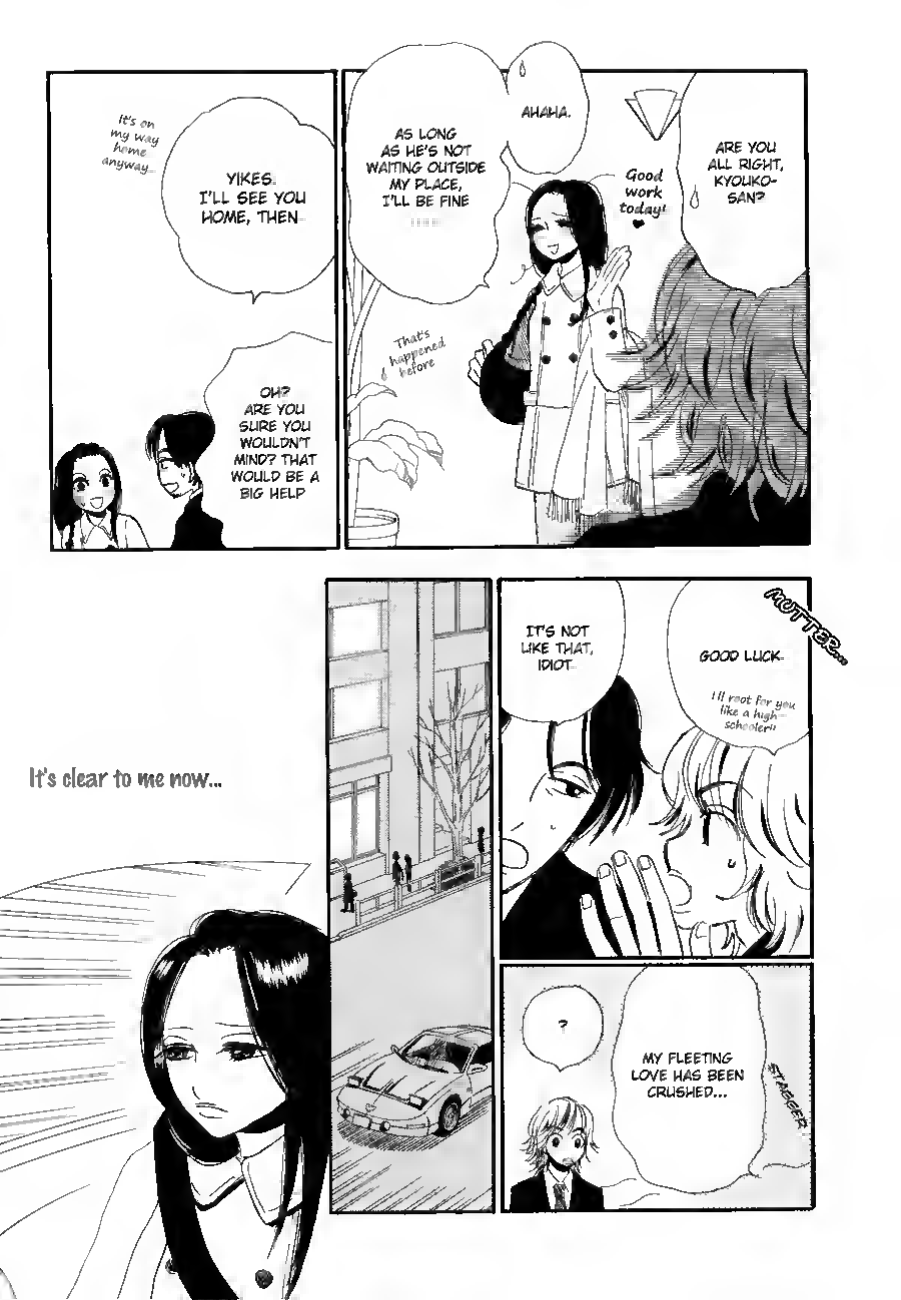
And you look anything but cool right now
WHAT ARE YOU, A HIGH-SCHOOLER .?
IT'S ME, RIGHT?
WHICH OF US IS COOLER, HIM OR ME..?
Minami ...
PLEASE... DON'T ASK ME TO TALK ABOUT THAT HERE
BUT YOU WON'T ANSWER THE PHONE..
COME ON
WE NEED TO TALK..
!
I'LL NEVER LET YOU GO AGAIN...
I WON'T LET GO.
PLEASE STOP. THIS IS MY WORKPLACE, OKAY?

!!
CLENCH...
HUH?!
MARRY ME!!
I WON'T LET GO.
MY RIGHT HAND..
HEY.. THAT HURTS
I WON'T LET GO.
I won't be able to type...
IT HURTS!
HEY! CUT IT OUT! LET GO OF ME!!

But if he hurts my hand,
↓
I won't be able to type the new books!!
IT HURTS... PLEASE...
If I make a fuss, it could cause problems for the club.
↓
Which means I won't get the printing fees.....!!
GALLANT!!
I'LL GO!!
WAIT!!
UH-OH.
TMD
A sissy like you isn't good for anything but wiping someone's ass!!
Get your hands off me.
EXCUSE ME, SIR...

Why are you coming crawling back now to whine about it?!!
And YOU were the one who broke things off in the first place, asshole!!
HMMM?
SMACK SMACK
NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE SAYS,
I'M GOING TO LIVE MY LIFE THE WAY I WANT!!
IF YOU TRY AND GET IN MY WAY, I'LL FUCK YOU UP!!
I'M DOING THREE BOOKS FOR WINTER COMIKET!!

CRA-
.....
CK...
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLA
GOOD WORK TODAY!
siiiigh...

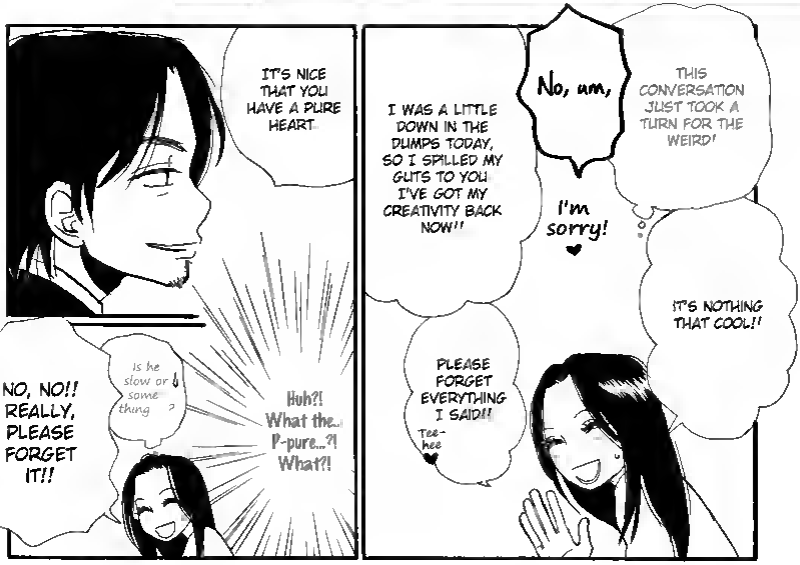

It's on my way home anyway...
YIKES. I'LL SEE YOU HOME, THEN.
OH? ARE YOU SURE YOU WOULDN'T MIND? THAT WOULD BE A BIG HELP
AHAHA.
AS LONG AS HE'S NOT WAITING OUTSIDE MY PLACE, I'LL BE FINE
That's happened before
Good work today!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, KYOUKO-SAN?
MUTTER...
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT, IDIOT.
GOOD LUCK.
I'll root for you like a high-schooler!!
?
MY FLEETING LOVE HAS BEEN CRUSHED...
STAGGER
It's clear to me now...

There's nothing I can do about it!! I can't be cured!!
I'm lacking as a human being!!
that writing is the most important thing to me!!
IT SOUNDS COOL WHEN I SAY IT LIKE THAT, HUH?
EVEN THOUGH IT'S ABOUT GAY GUYS!!
SO, HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN...
BA-DUM

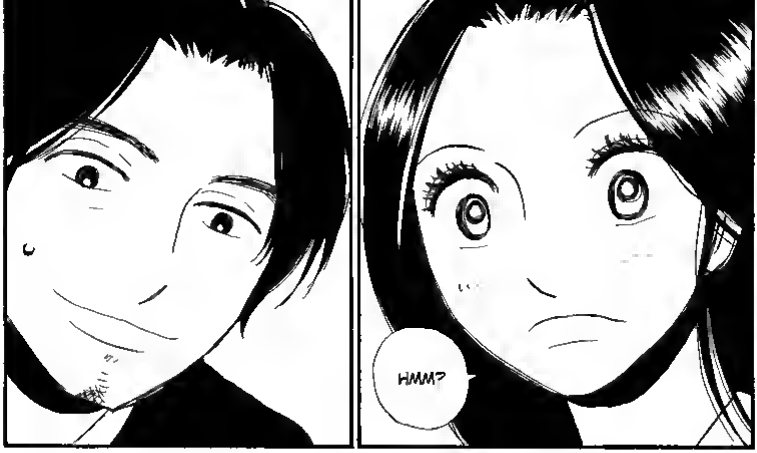
WHEN I STARTED OUT, I WAS JUST WONDERING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED NEXT...
OH, BUT...
WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?
HUH?!
OH!
WRITING STORIES?
UM, WHAT?
SINCE ABOUT THIRD GRADE...
※ She started writing icky stuff around sixth grade.
THIRD GRADE?!
OH...
WHEN I WROTE A LOT, I FELT LIKE I COULD GO INSIDE THE BOOKS
I was just reading children's books back then. Fantasy books and stuff.
UM, WHEN I FINISHED A BOOK I LIKED, I GOT SO SAD AND LONELY. I MISSED IT SO I STARTED WRITING OUT WHAT HAPPENED NEXT...
flutter...
NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE!!
YOU'RE GREAT AT DEALING WITH THE CUSTOMERS!!
WELL, SPENDING ALL THAT TIME ALONE AS A KID MEANT I GREW UP INTO AN ADULT WHO DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH PEOPLE I DON'T KNOW HOW TO JUDGE THE APPROPRIATE DISTANCE

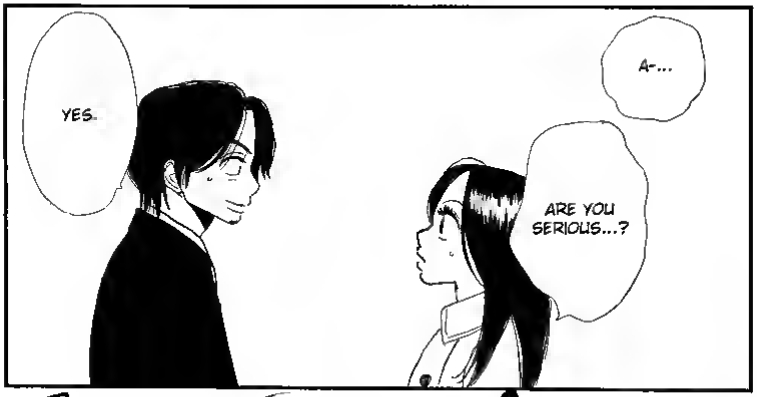
THAT'S MORE OF A ONE-TIME THING, SO IT'S FINE AND IT'S MY JOB.
BUT WHEN IT COMES TO BOY-FRIENDS, I SEE THEM ALL THE TIME, SO...
ONCE I START WRITING A STORY... THAT'S ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT SO I NEGLECT EVERYTHING ELSE. I'M HOPELESS...
THAT EX WHO CAME TODAY... WE BROKE UP BECAUSE HE OBJECTED TO MY WRITING.
I GUESS I JUST DON'T HAVE THE WILLPOWER TO STOP. HOW CHILDISH.
I REALLY LOVED HIM BUT THAT WASN'T ENOUGH
WELL, THESE THINGS HAPPEN.

?!
I LIKE THAT.
AND IT'S SWEET. NOT LIKE THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE FREAKISHLY GOOD AT THAT STUFF.


IT'S NICE THAT YOU HAVE A PURE HEART.
NO, NO!! REALLY, PLEASE FORGET IT!!
Is he slow or something?
Huh?! What the.. P-pure...?! What?!
I WAS A LITTLE DOWN IN THE DUMPS TODAY, SO I SPILLED MY GUTS TO YOU. I'VE GOT MY CREATIVITY BACK NOW!!
No, um,
I'm sorry!
THIS CONVERSATION JUST TOOK A TURN FOR THE WEIRD!
IT'S NOTHING THAT COOL!!
PLEASE FORGET EVERYTHING I SAID!!
Tee-hee

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
UM...
WANT TO GO OUT WITH ME?
Yes?


HMM?


A-...
YES.
ARE YOU SERIOUS...?

I-I'm definitely not the woman you think I am!
I-
HUUUUH?!
Uh..oh

OH.
YES, IT DOES SEEM THAT WAY
BUT
THAT'S WHY IT JUST MIGHT WORK!
WELL, UM-- YOU SEE.
I'M SURE
.....that I'm
an incredible
pain to deal with!
And completely incomprehensible!
If I'm not careful, I'll end up creeping you out!
She wanted to say that out loud, but she stopped herself.
HAHAHA.
.....
WHAT WOMAN ISN'T AN INCOMPREHENSIBLE PAIN IN THE BUTT?

To be continued!

Afterword

Hello, I'm Aoki Mitsue. My autonomic nerves don't function very well (that's what the doctor tells me, anyway). That puddle of gel there, is me in the spring. Uemura-san asked me to write something, so here goes. I have permission to talk about Tokui from Tutorial if I want, but that would be going a little too far, so I'm going to write something about each chapter instead.

I go moe over Tokui's mole!!

↑

Oops, I did write something about him!!

Chapter 1 "Chieri and Mika"

I love girls. But, sorry to say, I have no interest in the "Onee-sama ♡" type of yuri, so it turned out like this instead.

Chapter 2 "The Boss and Tatsukichi-tsan"

A friend who draws yaoi asked me, "...Who is this based on?! Me...?!"

It's not based on anyone!!

↑ That might be the thing I most wanted to say in this afterword...

Chapter 3 "Riko and Ryuu"

Oh... Another couple with a younger guy. It's not so much that I'm a fan, more that they're easy to draw.

I go moe over broke ballerinas!

I go moe when I see ballerinas using mended tights and leotards. It's the contrast with the glamorous world of ballet...!! Worn-out ballet shoes are cool, too! ♫

★ Chapter 4 "Riko and Ryuu 2"

I... do ballet, too... ← I started learning as an adult
It's hard to do, OF COURSE, but it's also difficult to draw... Everything about ballet sure is tricky...

★ Chapter 5 "Chieri and Mika 2"

I tried to show that her uniform scarf was made of silk and a little droopy, since she was a senior and all, but it was hard. My lifetime journey of drawing sailor uniforms continues on...

★ Chapter 6 "The Boss and Tatsukichi-tsan 2"

Trying to do three new doujinshi at once sure sounds tough!! Good luck, Tatsukichi!!! And the months between summer and winter just fly by!

A final word

To my editor, Uemura-san, who's stuck with me despite my nerve problem: Thank you so much. I'm sorry I'm always nothing but trouble. I had no idea it would take so long. Well, an apology isn't going to fix my nerve problem, so I'm not going to get any better, but please don't give up on me. To Morozumi-san: Great job, thanks! I'm secretly rooting for kirin to win the M-1, too.

I'd also like to send my love to all of you out there reading this. xxx
Thank you very much!!

Spring 2007
Aoki Natsue

T/N1: Kirin is a comedy duo.
T/N2: M-1 is the M-1 Grand Prix, a manzai (traditional stand up) comedy competition.